MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- A senior Israeli political source indicated that Israel will adopt the latest U.S. proposal to resolve the problem over the agenda for the negotiations, although the Israelis may raise some reservations at the negotiating table, IDF Radio reported. Nothing remains but to wait for Lebanon's approval, the radio said, and "voices from Beirut indicate that such approval is indeed emerging." Earlier, official Lebanese sources in Beirut announced that Lebanon has accepted the new U.S. proposals, according to reports by AFP and Jerusalem radio. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon subsequently confirmed that Lebanon approved the final text of the U.S. proposals after explaining to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper the maximum that it could accept. According to Jerusalem radio, the U.S. proposals will allow each delegation to suggest subjects for discussion without following an agreed upon or binding agenda.

Draper and U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib both arrived in Israel, Jerusalem radio reported later on 11 January. Noting that the two envoys will meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin, the radio said Habib is carrying a message for Begin from President Reagan.

Tripoli Situation -- Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived on an official visit to Tripoli, Beirut radio reported on 12 January. The previous day, Tripoli Bishop Habib Khuri was wounded by gunmen, but the city was otherwise calm, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Lebanese internal security forces have not yet deployed throughout the "not areas" because of the armed Palestinian, 'Alawite and "alien" presence, the radio said.

PLO Affairs

Moscow Visit -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a high-ranking PLO delegation, including PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PLO International Department head Faruq Qaddumi, are in Moscow for the Palestinians' first meeting with the new Soviet leadership, KUNA reported. The 3-day official visit will focus on Middle East issues and on strengthening bilateral relations, KUNA added. Following the USSR visit, the PLO leader will tour several Arab countries, beginning with Iraq, in order to brief Arab leaders, INA reported.

Reagan Initiative -- At its 6 January meeting in Kuwait, the Fatah Central Committee rejected President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative and Yasir 'Arafat informed the Higher Palestinian-Jordanian Committee of this stand during the committee's recent meeting in Amman, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf declared in remarks published in the 10 January issue of the Kuwait daily AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM. However, 'Arafat asserted that the PLO will consider forming a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to join peace negotiations in accordance with both the Reagan initiative and UN Security Council Resolution No 242 if Israel makes a positive move toward withdrawing its forces from Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Libyan Meeting -- Representatives of various Palestinian groups began meeting in Libya to decide on a "definite program" for reactivating pan-Arab, revolutionary action, Damascus radio reported citing remarks made by Secretary General of the PFLP-General Command Ahmad Jibril.

PNC Meeting -- According to Jerusalem radio, Yasir 'Arafat reportedly told Jordan's King Husayn that it is doubtful that the PNC will convene as scheduled next month in Algiers because leftist elements in Palestinian organizations may boycott the meeting.

Israel

Sharon on Talks With Jordan, Palestinians -- Israel would be happy to talk with Jordan about the Camp David autonomy plan, but "there is no room at this point to discuss other plans," since Camp David is "the only realistic plan that can be realized and implemented," Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon declared in an interview broadcast by IDF Radio. Israel recognizes that Palestinian personalities must participate in the negotiations, Sharon added, but they should be neither overt nor covert PLO members, nor should they be messengers for the PLO. The Palestinian negotiators should be residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who want peaceful coexistence with Israel, the defense minister asserted.

According to the Jerusalem POST, Sharon's statement seems to signal a hardening of Israel's position on Palestinian participation in any peace talks.

Jerusalem Bomb -- Twelve suspects were arrested after one person was wounded by a bomb explosion in Jerusalem, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arab Foreign Relations

Saudi - Libyan Relations -- Saudi Arabia's ambassador will return to Libya "as soon as possible," SPA reported citing an official source.

UK Relations -- Former West Bank Mayor Muhammad Milhem will represent the PLO when the Fes summit delegation visits Britain on 7 February, according to KUNA. This "breakthrough" was reportedly reached during an 8 January meeting in Rabat between Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hammed Boucetta and the British ambassador to Morocco, KUNA added. However, the British Foreign Office admitted only that "some progress" has been made and cautioned that more consultations with other Arab governments are needed, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. The PLO insists that Faruq Qaddumi be the Palestinian delegate, the director of the PLO's Rabat office declared to INA.

Egyptian-Soviet Relations -- Egypt will not resume relations with the Soviet Union on the previous basis but is willing to resume relations and exchange ambassadors on the basis of equality and noninterference by either side in the internal affairs of the other, the daily AL-AKHBAR announced in a commentary reviewed by Cairo radio. Egypt's primary principle is nonalignment, the paper said, and relations with other countries must be based on the principles of friendship, equality, and free will.

Meanwhile, Soviet Embassy officials in Cairo disclosed that the director of the Soviet Academy of Sciences African Institute, Anatoliy Gromyko, has arrived in Egypt for talks connected with improving Soviet-Egyptian relations, KUNA reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes launched 80 raids against Iranian positions in the Maysan sector on 11 January, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed.

Iran

Iran's Japanese partners in the construction of a petrochemical plant in Bandar-e Khomeyni have until 13 January to decide to resume construction of the plant; otherwise, Iran will find other means to complete the project, IRNA reported. The Iranian director of the joint project, who conveyed Iran's position to the Japanese companies at a meeting in Tokyo, expressed optimism that the Japanese will agree to resume the project.

Afghanistan

A group of Soviet advisers was kidnapped in the northern town of Mazar-e Sharif last week, AFP reported.

DAILY REPORT

Middle East and Africa

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INA: YASIR 'ARAFAT LEAVES FOR MOSCOW 11 JAN

JN110910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Amman, 11 Jan (INA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left for Moscow today, leading a high-ranking Palestinian delegation on a visit of several days to the Soviet Union.

A knowledgeable Palestinian source in the Jordanian capital told the INA correspondent that 'Arafat will hold intensive talks with the Soviet leadership on the latest developments on the Palestinian issue on both the Arab and international levels.

While in Amman, the PLO leader presided over the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee and acquainted himself with the outcome of King Husayn's recent visit to the United States.

A dispatch by the INA Moscow correspondent noted that a Palestinian delegation comprising Khalid al-Fahum, the PNC speaker, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO information department, in addition to a number of PLO officials, had arrived in Moscow to join the delegation accompanying 'Arafat.

'Arafat is scheduled to arrive in Moscow later today to head the Palestinian delegation to talks with Soviet officials. The INA correspondent said that 'Arafat's talks will deal with the latest development on the Palestinian issue after the Lebanese events and with Palestinian-Soviet relations and means to develop them.

Arrival in Moscow

For Moscow media coverage of the visit to Moscow of Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO delegation accompanying him, including his arrival on 11 January, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 12 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

To Tour Arab States

JN111344 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Amman, 11 Jan (INA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will tour the Arab states at the end of his visit to the USSR which began today. His first visit will be to Iraq. An informed Palestinian source told INA that 'Arafat will aquaint Arab leaders with the latest developments in the Palestinian question and the solutions being proposed on the Arab and International levels. 'Arafat left Amman for Moscow today.

AS-SIYASAH on Future Meetings

GF120506 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 10 Jan 83 pp 1, 21

[Marwan Hazin dispatch]

[Excerpt] AS-SIYASAH has learned from senior Palestinian sources that Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Syrian capital, Damascus, on 16 January to attend a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, the secretaries general of the resistance factions, and the chairmanship of the PNC. The sources added that during the 2-day meetings the conferees will discuss the agenda and the necessary preparations for holding meetings of the PNC, which is scheduled to meet on 14 February in the Algerian capital.

The sources indicated that among the issues that will be discussed will be relations among Palestinian groups and Palestinian-Syrian relations, thus reflecting the keenness of the Palestinian leadership to correct relations with Syria. These meetings will be completed in the PDRY capital, Aden, on 25 January during the resistance leaders' attendance of celebrations marking the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

AS-SIYASAH also has learned that a tripartite summit will be held in Aden to be attended by PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. These developments indicate that the leadership of the Palestinian resistance is capable of overcoming some of the difficulties and differences in views that emerged on a number of issues -- dealing with Palestinian affairs -- in the post-Beirut stage. Thus, the leadership, foremost of whom is Yasir 'Arafat, is anxious to maintain the unity of the Palestinian position and the unity of the factions of the Palestinian resistance. This consequently implies an interest in promoting and developing forms of armed struggle against the Zionist entity.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON PRC AID, RAPPROCHEMENT WITH EGYPT

OW120013 Hong Kong AFP in English 2322 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, Jan. 11 (AFP) -- Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat accuses Syria, in a forthcoming interview, of blocking 2,200 tons of Chinese military aid for the Palestinians during the siege of Beirut.

In the interview, to appear in the January 17 issue of the Paris-published weekly AFRIQUE-ASIE (AFRICA-ASIA), Mr 'Arafat also says that his "dearest wish" is to visit Egypt, but expresses the view that current circumstances are not propitious for such a visit.

"Our rapprochement with Egypt," he says, "will be proportional to its distancing from the Camp David accords."

According to Mr 'Arafat, during the Beirut siege Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin sent him a message, via an unidentified American journalist, asking him:

"Whom are you counting on? Are you surrounding Tel Aviv or am I surrounding Beirut? What is stopping you from surrendering?"

Mr 'Arafat replied: "Surrounded at Beirut, I am surrounding the capitals of the world."

He also received a message from Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon advising him to hoist the white flag if he did not want "all hell" to fall on him.

Mr Sharon added that he was "ready to offer better conditions than those offered by Britain to the Argentine forces" who surrendered in the Falklands.

Mr 'Arafat replied: "My comrades know my wishes: If one day I think of surrendering, I authorise them to kill me and continue fighting to the end."

AS-SIYASAH ON DISCUSSIONS OF PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN COMMITTEE

GF111444 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 9 Jan 83 pp 1, 19

[Report by AS-SIYASAH correspondent Marwan Hazin in Al-Biqa', Lebanon, on first meeting of Palestinian-Syrian committee -- date not given; all numbers as published]

[Text] Following the Aden meeting on 4 December among three Palestinian leaders representing three different fronts of the Palestinian resistance, Yasir 'Arafat, representing the Palestine national liberation movement Fatah, Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and following the announcement of a political statement on that meeting and the issuance of the secret document that contained the issues which the three leaders ageeed upon for the strategy of Palestinian action in the phase that followed the invasion of Lebanon and was published by AS-SIYASAH in yesterday's issue, an eight-member committee for Palestinian-Syrian dialogue was set up. This committee is made up of PLO Executive Committee members.

Among other things, the Aden meeting called for rectifying relations with Syria.

AS-SIYASAH has learned that the political base of the eight-member committee for the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue, whose members are Khalid al-Fahum, Faruq Qaddumi, Abu Mahir al-Yamani, Salih Ra'fat, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, will focus on the Reagan plan, Arab relations, relations with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt, and international issues.

AS-SIYASAH publishes in the following the full details of the issues discussed and agreed upon at the first meeting of the committee which the representatives of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, As-Sa'iqah, and the Arab Liberation Front did not attend.

Reagan's Plan

Regarding Reagan's plan, it was agreed that the initiative does not recognize the Palestinian people's firm national rights, does not constitute an acceptable and sound basis for solving the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Zionist conflict, and disregards the Palestinian issue by disregarding the right to return, self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state, and also disregards the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arab Relations

Regarding Arab relations, it has been agreed to deepen cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and the Arab National Liberation Movement all over the whole Arab homeland in order to effectively confront imperialist and Zionist plots and liquidating projects, particularly the Camp David agreement and Reagan's plan, and to end the Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

2. It was agreed that relations between the PLO and the Arab countries should be based on the following:

A. Commitment to Arab struggle issues, foremost of which the Palestinian issue and struggle for its sake.

B. Adherence to the Palestinian people's rights, including their rights to return, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state under the PLO, rights which have been supported by Arab summits.

C. Concern over unity of representation, national unity, and respect for independent national Palestinian decisions.

D. Rejection of the policy and agreement of Camp David and consideration of the Fes summit resolution as a minimum level for Arab political action while affirming the need not to drop the military option with all its requirements.

(It should be noted that PFLP representative Abu Mahir Yamani rejected this clause during the Fes summit.)

With Syria

Relations with Syria: It has been decided that relations with Syria should stem from the PNC's resolutions in its successive sessions which underline the importance of strategic relations between the PLO and Syria to serve the national and pan-Arab struggle goals on the principle that the Palestinian revolution strengthens Syria and Syria strengthens the Palestinian revolution. It has also been agreed that relations with Syria should be consolidated because Syria and the Palestinian revolution are the steadfastness and confrontation line with the Zionist enemy in defense of the Arab masses and their national causes.

Relations With Lebanon

It was decided to deepen relations with the Lebanese masses and their nationalist and progressive forces and to support and assist them in their valiant struggle in confronting the Zionist occupation and its apparatus.

2. The central task of the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon is to contribute with the Lebanese masses and their nationalist and progressive forces to bringing about an end of the Zionist occupation for the sake of Lebanon's independence and unity.

3. The PLO will negotiate with the Lebanese Government to establish peace and security for the Palestinian citizens in Lebanon and to preserve their rights, including freedom of political and social activities and their right to residence, transportation, and work.

With Jordan

Relations with Jordan: It was agreed in this regard that the unity of PLO representation for the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories will be upheld, that there will be no concessions by the PLO for any party, and that the PLO will not authorize any party to talk on its behalf or to take part with it in this right.

2. The PLO underlines the special and distinguished relations linking the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. Out of their national aspirations, the PLO sees that future relations between them will be on confederal bases between two independent states.

With Egypt

Relations with Egypt: It was agreed that out of the PNC's resolutions of rejecting the Camp David policy and agreement, the PLO affirms its adherence to these resolutions and affirms commitment not to establish relations with the Egyptian regime so long as it remains committed to the Camp David agreement.

2. To continue to enhance struggle relations with the Egyptian masses led by their nationalist and progressive forces and to support them in their struggle to enable them to foil the Camp David policy and bring Egypt back to the Arab ranks.

International Field

In the international field, it was agreed to further and deepen friendly relations between the PLO and the socialist countries led by the Soviet Union and the various forces of liberation all over the world to counter imperialism, Zionism, colonialism, and racism and to cooperate with the Soviet Union to find a just solution to the Middle East crisis within an international conference.

(It should be noted that here that PFLP representative Abu Mahir al-Yamani expressed reservations on the issue of an international conference.

2. Deepening relations with the nonaligned, Islamic, and African countries for the sake of the Palestine issue and other liberation issues.

3. Deepening relations with friendly countries in Latin America and trying to widen the circle of friends.

4. Activating political action with West European countries and Japan to improve their stand, expand recognition of the PLO, and establish an independent Palestinian state.

5. To continue the struggle to isolate the Zionist entity in the United Nations and in various international forums.

INA: PLO OFFICIAL REBUFFS UK STAND ON ARAB COMMITTEE

JN120822 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, 12 Jan (INA) -- Abu Marwan, director of the PLO office in Rabat, has declared that the PLO insists that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi represent it in the seven-member Arab committee should the committee visit Britain. In a statement to the INA correspondent here, Abu Marwan said this decision is in reply to the new British stand that denies that an agreement has been reached with regard to the date of the committee's visit to London on 7 February -- the date which the Moroccan foreign minister had communicated to the ambassadors of the committee's member states last night. Abu Marwan expressed surprise at the new British stand, describing it as ambiguous. He added that Morocco, by virtue of its position as chairman of the committee, will hold rapid contacts with the British Government to investigate the motives that prompted this new British stand.

AD-DUSTUR: PNC TO INCREASE MEMBERS BY 40-45

JN090937 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 83 pp 1, 19

[Text] Amman, (AD-DUSTUR) -- The PNC members in Jordan have received invitations to attend the meetings of the council which will be held in Algiers in mid-February. Other Palestinian figures have also received invitations to attend the meetings as observers.

The council agenda has been distributed to the members. It includes the election of a new PNC speaker, a post currently held by Khalid al-Fahum, and also the election of a secretary and two assistant secretaries.

The council will hear the political report prepared by the PLO Executive Committee. This report is of special importance because it is the first to come since the Lebanon incidents, the siege of Beirut, and the departure of the resistance. The council will also hear the financial report.

The political, military, financial, information, and trade union committees will also be formed. Following this, the current PLO Executive Committee will resign to allow a new committee to be elected.

It has been learned from reliable Palestinian sources that the number of the PNC members will be increased by 40 to 45, the majority of whom will be independents while some will be representatives of Palestinian organizations.

FARUQ QADDUMI INTERVIEWED ON VISIT TO TURKEY

6 Jan TERCUMAN

NC101001 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 6 Jan 83 p 1, 14

[Interview granted by PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi to TERCUMAN correspondent Nur Batur in Ankara -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: One reason for the coolness in relations between Turkey and the PLO is the PLO's relations with Greece and the Greek Cypriots. Can one expect the elimination of this tension in the near future?

Answer: When you look at the facts, Turkey has relations with Israel. We know that it is difficult for Turkey to completely sever relations with Israel. As for the relations between the PLO and Greece, these relations are not new. They have been continuing for a long time toward the achievement of independence by the Cypriots. Furthermore, the Greek people supported the Palestinians during the war. However, I must point out that our relations with the Greeks have not been and will never be against Turkey. Both Greece and Turkey are friends of the Palestinians and the Arabs, and we can be of assistance in the settlement of the disputes betwen them.

Question: What are the reasons for the failure of the PLO to support Turkey in the Cyprus issue?

Answer: No, we support the Cyprus issue. [sentence as published] We support intercommunal talks for the settlement of the Cyprus question, we support the UN resolutions, we support the existence of the two communities in peace in a nonaligned united Cyprus and in a Cyprus freed from the British bases. We are prepared to do anything for the improvement of relations between the two communities.

Question: Are reports that 'Arafat will choose Athens as his new headquarters true?

Answer: No, they are not. This is totally Israeli propaganda.

Question: What kind of support do you expect from Turkey from now on?

Answer: Turkey can play a very important role in the Middle East. It can exercise pressure on the United States, NATO, and Europe. We have not asked Turkey for military assistance.

Qaddumi stated that 'Arafat will visit Turkey in the near future.

5 Jan CUMHURIYET

NC100907 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 5 Jan 83 pp 1, 11

[Interview granted by PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi to CUMHURIYET correspondents Cengiz Candar and Sedat Erbin in Ankara -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Ankara -- PLO Political Department chief (foreign minister) Faruq Qaddumi has made an exclusive statement to CUMHURIYET in which he said that Turkey could play an important role in the Palestinian issue. He stated that Turkey could bring pressure to bear on the United States, the European countries, and NATO. However, Qaddumi denied allegations that the PLO has maintained relations with either the Armenians or any other terrorist groups. The following is the interview Qaddumi granted to CUMHURIYET:

Question: From time to time we hear that the PLO has relations with the Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) and that some Turkish terrorists are being trained in the Palestinian camps. Would you clarify the PLO's attitude on this matter, which affects the Turkish people's opinion toward the PLO?

Answer: We pay attention to the need of strengthening our bilateral relations with the Turkish people. We are aware of the issues which distress the Turkish people and which are the outcome of certain militant actions. I can say this: We are not in any way in touch either with the Armenians or with other militant Turkish organizations. In the past, some Turks came to us and fought in our ranks. Some of these Turks fought valiantly and heroically and were martyred for the Palestinian cause. We cannot deny their service to the Palestinian cause. After the declaration of the Palestinian cause in 1979 and 1980 as "a holy struggle," Turks, Iranians, Bengalees, and Pakistanis joined our ranks. Some of these Muslim people became prisoners during the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

It is common knowledge that we have not sheltered Armenian militants within our structure. We have no connection whatsoever with the movement known as ASALA. We discussed this subject with the honorable Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen and communicated our views to him on all these issues. Our stand is very clear: We do not wish to cooperate with any movement which could prejudice the national aspirations of the Turkish nation.

Question: How do you evaluate your visit to Ankara? What are the concrete results which your visit has contributed to bilateral relations?

Answer: We made our first visit of the new year to Turkey. We attach great importance to this visit, and it is important to us that Turkey should give constant and strong support to the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their national rights. Therefore, my visit should be viewed as a first step toward the development of our bilateral relations and our political cooperation in the international arena.

Question: You have just referred to political cooperation between Turkey and the PLO. Will a new mechanism be set up for this cooperation?

Answer: We are already in touch with each other on various matters within the framework of the Islamic Conference. We cooperate in the adoption and the execution of various resolutions, both at the ministerial as well as the presidential level. We also cooperate in regard to the UN resolutions.

Question: In a recent statement to CUMHURIYET PLO leader 'Arafat said that Turkey's attitude during the Israeli occupation of Lebanon was short of expectations. And when he was asked what he expected of Turkey, he stressed that "the least Turkey could do was to sever its diplomatic relations with Israel." Has this matter come up during your current talks here in Ankara?

Answer: Yes, this was one of the items on our agenda. We discussed not only what could prejudice the interests of the Turkish nation but also those which could harm the interests of the Palestinian people. We reached an identity of views in that good relations should be maintained and that we should eliminate all the problems that might crop up between the two people. As a Muslim country, Turkey should implement the resolutions adopted at the Islamic Conference. One of these resolutions stipulates the complete severance of diplomatic, commercial, and cultural relations with Israel. Turkey has not done this yet. We hope that it will take a step toward this in the future. As I said before, this was one of the issues we discussed.

We remind Turkey of its role in the area. As an Islamic country and in view of its place in the history of the area and because of its close and sincere relations with the Arabs, Turkey's importance, the importance of the role it could play in the Middle East and the Mediterranean as a great nation is not negligible.

'UKAZ: ARAB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS SOVIET, U.S. POSITIONS

PM101345 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 6 Jan 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Arabs Refuse To Receive Pym; Riyadh Summit To Formulate New Concept After Assessing Tour of Seven-Member Committee"]

[Text] Jidda -- 'UKAZ has learned that the summit meeting the seven-member committee is scheduled to hold in Riyadh will discuss the results of the committee's tour of the United States, France, the Soviet Union, and the PRC, having completely excluded Britain from the tour as a result of Britain's recent attitude toward the committee.

The assessment will cover the following points:

1. Similarities and differences between the Arab peace plan and President Reagan's plan and ways of exploiting the positive aspects of the U.S. plan in order to make some headway toward the objectives for which the committee was formed and made its tour.

2. How seriously the Soviet Union wants to contribute to a settlement. The committee will review the Soviet promise to the committee that the Soviet Union will make more efforts to promote a just peace in the region on the basis of Soviet assurances that there is a great similarity between the Arab attitude and the declared Soviet position, particularly the call for an international conference to settle the question.

3. Review of the European positions on the basis of the Venice Declaration and the results of the peripheral contacts held by certain Arab states with the various West European states which are not permanent members of the Security Council. These states will announce a new stance after holding contacts with all the other Arab states, and this will determine the next Arab step.

Meanwhile, informed sources have confirmed to 'UKAZ that the committee will not visit Britain unless there is a tangible change in the British position. The sources confirmed that it was Saudi Arabia which asked Francis Pym to postpone his visit because the time was not right, adding that it would be willing to receive him if Britain had anything new that would eliminate the causes which led to the present crisis.

The source did not expect any improvement in the British attitude. He said that this British obduracy will be met with general Arab resolve.

The source also said that the question of receiving a British official other than the foreign secretary is still under consideration, especially an official with a mission unrelated to the known British position on receiving the Arab seven-member committee.

He noted that the current British contacts have achieved no results because they have brought nothing new and no acceptable justifications. He said that Britain erred twice: The first time was when it contacted the members of the committee separately to inform them of its refusal to receive the committee. The second time was when it ventured to take a pro-Israel stand and thus completely contradict the recent improvement in its approach to the PLO when more than one British official met with more than one Palestinain official and more than one occasion.

The sources said that the British attitude was a surprise and that Britain acted the way it did out of courtesy to the United States, although the Americas did not in principle object to a Palestinian representative going to their country, albeit not for direct participation in the talks.

The informed source explained that the Arab states, especially the Gulf states, are coordinating fully among themselves and will take a unified position, particularly on the question of a future visit by the British foreign secretary to some of these states.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC OIL MINISTERS TO MEET IN MANAMA 15 JANUARY

LD111644 Kuwait KUNA in English 1607 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 11 (KUNA) Oil ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council member states meet Saturday in Manama to discuss, among other things, future cooperation between their countries in oil areas, an official source said Tuesday.

Through contacts between them, oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman agreed on the date and venue of the two-day meeting, the official told KUNA.

The meeting was originally scheduled for last Saturday but was indefinitely postponed at the request of a member state.

The source said the ministers are likely to discuss the refining industry in the Gulf and the movement of oil by-products between the GCC member states.

Meanwhile, it has been widely speculated in the industry circles that the session will discuss production and pricing policies in the wake of OPEC's failure in the Vienna conference last month to reach an agreement committing its 13 members to a common strategy on these crucial issues.

The Saudi oil ministers, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, visited Kuwait today following a visit to Riyadh earlier in the week by Kuwait Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah.

BAHRAIN

REPORTS ON PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

Ziaul Haq Letter Delivered

GF111253 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 11 Jan (WAKH) -- Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a letter on bilateral relations from Pakistan President Ziaul Haq. The letter was delivered by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan when he was received by the amir of Bahrain here today in the presence of Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Pakistani Ambassador to Bahrain, Muhammad Afzal Qadir.

The Pakistani foreign minister arrived in Manama last night on a 2-day visit in the course of his tour of a number of countries in the region.

Official Talks Held

GF111256 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 11 Jan (WAKH) -- Official talks between the Bahraini side led by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, and the Pakistani side led by Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan, were held in Manama this morning.

Also representing the Bahraini side at the talks were 'Ali al-Mahrus, director of the political department; Jasim Bu'allay, director of the economic department; and 'Abd ar-Rahman Salman Kamal, adviser at the Foreign Ministry.

Also representing the Pakistani side at the talks were Muhammed Afzal Qadir, Pakistani ambassador to Bahrain, and the delegation accompanying the Pakistani foreign minister.

Yaqub Khan Departs

GF120906 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 12 Jan (WAKH) -- Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan left Manama this morning for home following a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

During the visit the Pakistani minister held talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on bilateral relations. The talks also focused on current Gulf, Arab, and Islamic issues in addition to international issues and matters of mutual interest.

The Pakistani minister was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Pakistan Ambassador to Bahrain Muhammed Afzal Qadir.

OMAN

UAE PETROLEUM MINISTER ARRIVES 10 JANUARY

GF102026 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah arrived today in the country on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman, during which he will meet with His Majesty Sultan Qabus.

The minister was met at Salalah civil airport by Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id Ahmad ash-Shanfari and a number of ministry officials.

Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah upon arrival made a statement: I am here in my second homeland, the Sultante of Oman, to convey the greetings of His Excellency UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus. I will try to make use of this visit to discuss the latest developments with regard to the rise in the price of petroleum -- whether this be on the level of the GCC countries or on the international level -- with Sa'id Ahmad ash-Shanfari. He added: We in the UAE work with full coordination with fraternal Oman so that our stand will be in harmony with the interests of our area and thus defend the petroleum market, particularly now when this market is subjected to intense pressures.

Departs 11 January

GF111820 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah today left the Sultanate of Oman after concluding a short visit during which he met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus. On his departure from Salalah civil airport, he was seen off by Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id Ahmad ash-Sahnfari and a number of senior officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

AMBASSADOR TO RETURN TO LIBYA 'SOON AS POSSIBLE'

LD121026 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1005 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Jan (SPA) -- An official source has stated that the Saudi ambassador to the sister Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will return to his post in the Libyan capital as soon as possible.

PETROLEUM MINISTER RETURNS FROM KUWAIT

LD111638 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Jan (SPA) -- Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ahmad Zaki Yamani has returned to Riyadh from Kuwait after having delivered a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz to his highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

UAE

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON UPCOMING GCC MEETING

GF120900 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has affirmed that there are no differences between the GCC petroleum and mineral ministers' meetings and those of OPEC. In a statement upon his return to Abu Dhabi from Muscat last night, Dr al-'Utaybah said the meeting that will be held in Manama next Saturday will be devoted to the discussion of the latest developments in the oil market in light of the OPEC conference held in Vienna on 19 December.

PDRY

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION ARRIVES

GF111922 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] The French delegation led by (Marc Bensau), director of the Middle East and North Africa Department and minister plenipotentiary at the French External Relations Ministry, arrived in Aden this morning on a visit that will last for several days.

In a statement to ANA, (Marc Bensau) said his visit is in response to the invitation he received from the foreign minister last year. He indicated that during his visit he will hold talks with PDRY Foreign Ministry officials on cooperation between the two countries, the situation in the Arab region, and international issues.

The first round of official talks between the PDRY side led by Brother Sa'id 'Ali Subarah, director of the Europe and North America Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the French side led by the delegation head will be held today.

The delegation was received by Brother Sa'id 'Ali Subarah and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

SOVIET, EGYPTIAN SOURCES ON ANATOLIY GROMYKO VISIT

LD112132 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (KUNA) -- Soviet Embassy officials have stated here that Anatoliy Gromyko, son of the Soviet foreign minister and an expert in African affairs, arrived here today for informal talks connected with improving Soviet-Egyptian relations, which have been severed since 1981.

Diplomatic sources here described Gromyko, who is a member in the Soviet Academy of Sciences and head of the academy's African Institute, as an "unofficial envoy who will study Egypt's readiness to improve its relations with the Soviet Union."

Egypt's AL-AHRAM said today that during his 10-day visit Gromyko will deliver a lecture at the diplomats training institute, which is part of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and will also meet with a number of Egyptians specializing in African affairs. The paper described Gromyko Jr. as "one of the leading experts in African affairs in the Soviet Union and that he is in charge of Soviet policy with regard to African matters."

On the other hand, Egyptian Embassy sources in Moscow have denied to a KUNA correspondent in the Soviet capital reports circulating about the visit of Gromyko Jr. to Cairo that the object of the visit is to mend Soviet-Egyptian relations. The sources said Gromyko is not considered an official Soviet figure and that his current visit to Egypt is a purely scientific nature and falls within the framework of the exchange of scientific and cultural delegations between the two countries in accordance with a cultural agreement.

Soviet-Egyptian relations were severed in 1981 following the decision by the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to expel Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov and 550 Soviet experts.

AL-AKHBAR COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

NC120656 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 12 Jan 83

[From the Press Review]

[Text] On relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, AL-AKHBAR sheds light on President Mubarak's remark that Egypt is anxious to improve its relations with the Soviet Union and that he expects Egypt and the Soviet Union to exchange ambassadors in the future.

The president pointed out that no negotiations have been conducted on setting the date for this exchange.

In this respect the newspaper mentions that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has given an explanation of this matter before the People's Assembly. He said that Egypt, while maintaining strong relations with the United States, does not oppose friendly relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of noninterference by either side in the internal affairs of the other.

AL-AKHBAR ponts out that this talk over resumption of relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union has drown the attention of various political and cultural spheres. The newspaper indicates that we will not resume relations with the Soviet Union on previously adopted bases but on the basis of equality and noninterference in internal affairs. Our primary principle is nonalignment, which requires that we be unbiased toward any country and that our relations with other countries be based on the principles of friendship, equality, and free will. It is thus that we will resume our relations with the Soviet Union and welcome an exchange of ambassadors.

AL-AKHBAR concludes by affirming that Egypt does not harbor any enmity toward any country and does not avoid dealing with any country on the basis of its kind of government and social system, as those are internal matters. Egypt will not agree to be a propaganda center for beliefs in the interest of any other country, but it will respect its government and character as represented by its ethics and governing principles.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM ON SIMILAR ISRAELI, SOVIET AIMS

PM111455 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Jan 83 p 8

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah editorial: "Two Faces of Same Coin"]

[Excerpts] There is a strange similarity between Israel and the Soviet Union. Under the pretext of protecting peace in the region, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon, and under the pretext of defending the Afghan people against foreign plots, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.

Israel has achieved in Lebanon what the Soviet Union achieved in Afghanistan. Brute force has succeeded in intimidating the people and forcing millions to flee to neighboring countries, especially Palistan, and to live in tents on aid and food provided by various states alarmed by what the Soviet forces have been doing in Afghanistan.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is now 3 years old; yet no power has been able to end this bestial conquest of a peaceful country. The Soviet military needed these 3 years to test their latest sophisticated and also internationally banned weapons, and the victim has been the unarmed people of Afghanistan.

Despite this strange similarity, some people still refuse to treat Israel and the Soviet Union as two faces of the same coin. They condemn Israel but send roses to the Soviet Union, enumerate the Israeli crimes against the Arab nation but overlook the Soviet Union's atrocious war against the Islamic world represented by Afghanistan, urge mobilization of all Arab forces in a holy war against the Zionist threat but at the same time raise hell against those who refuse to throw themselves under the feet of the Soviet bear once more. What strange logic! They hail the recall of the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv and request that the Israeli ambassador be expelled from Cairo in retaliation for Israel's invasion of Lebanon, but they do not tire of urging an exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Moscow.

Nobody objects to the recall of the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv and nobody is against the freezing of the normalization process between Egypt and Israel because this is the least the Egyptian Government could do to demonstrate its rejection of Israel's crime against the Lebanese and Palestinian people and against the peace process as such. Egypt should treat the abominable Soviet crimes against the peaceful and unarmed Afghan people the same way. It is neither reasonable nor acceptable for Moscow to ignore the alarm, fury, and revulsion of the Islamic world and the world at large, continue its coercion, terror, and crimes in Afghanistan, and still expect to send its ambassador back to Moscow and welcome the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

The great similarity between the Israeli objectives in Lebanon and the Soviet objectives in Afghanistan is now crystal clear. The crimes are the same, the plans are the same, and the results are the same. This is why our treatment of the two similar states should not vary because, as I have said, they are two faces of the same coin.

MUBARAK COMMENTS ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

NC111513 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak met this morning with National Democratic Party [NDP] assistant secretaries in the governorate constituencies in the national studies center in Cairo.

[State Minister for Information] Safwat ash-Sharif stated after the meeting that the president spoke about the domestic and foreign situation as far as Egypt is concerned. With regard to foreign policy, he spoke about the Tabah problem, affirming that not an inch of Egyptian land will be relinquished and that Egypt will abide by the agreements it concluded with Israel.

With regard to Egypt's relations with India and Yugoslavia, the president said that Egypt is one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement, and therefore it is anxious to assert its role in this regard to activate the movement. The president said Egypt's policy is based on not joining alliances or permitting the establishment of military bases on its territory. This does not prevent the existence of special relations with the United States.

Ash-Sharif said that the president affirmed that the integration between Egypt and Sudan is for the good of the two peoples and is meant to promote development in both.

As for the Iraqi-Iranian war, the president affirmed that Egypt is against military conflict which destroys states. Egypt does not approve of this war. The president also expressed hope that this war, which has exhausted the resources of the two countries, will stop. President Mubarak announced that Egypt encourages any mediation between the two countries and helps Iraq defend itself.

Regarding the Middle East issue, Ash-Sharif said that the president pointed out that Egypt is following with interest the negotiations taking place between Israel and Lebanon and the efforts to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Egypt is also anxious to solve the Palestinian issue after having given a great deal from the material and moral standpoints. Through its efforts, Egypt has turned the Palestinian issue from an issue of refugees into an issue of people.

The president announced that his forthcoming visit to the United States is within the framework of efforts to assist the Palestinian issue.

Regarding Egyptian-Arab relations, the president said that Egypt is the heart of the Arab nation by its civilization, history, and army.

The president announced that he has agreed to deliver Egypt's speech at the ILO in Geneva and that he will visit some African states.

As for domestic policy, the president replied to questions from NDP officials about democratic practices. He pointed to the need for taking values into consideration in every dialogue for the good of the people and also to the need for the existence of opinion and counteropinion.

The president also spoke about the population increase and the ability of the utilities to absorb it, as well as the problems which exist in services. He announced that we are on the way to solving all these problems.

The president called on the people to share in the repayment of Egypt's debts. He said that it has been decided to open accounts in national banks for this purpose. He said that this is a good spirit for the building of Egypt.

WAKH: ENVOYS RECALLED FOR 'CONSULTATIONS'

GF080900 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 8 Jan (WAKH) -- Press reports in Doha said today that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has begun to recall its ambassadors and those in charge of Egyptian interests in Arab capitals for consultations.

The Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH said the Foreign Ministry will begin consultations with Egyptian diplomats in Arab capitals to put forward a strategy for political action for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry during 1983. Reporting from Amman, the newspaper added that the Foreign Ministry recalled Nabil Badr, minister plenipotentiary in charge of Egyptian interests in Amman, within these consultations.

It should be noted that Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, said yesterday that the year 1983 will witness a remarkable development to bring about the restoration of relations between Egypt and the Arab countries.

TRIAL OF 'ISMAT AS-SADAT, FAMILY RESUMES 9 JAN

NC091728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA) -- Under the chairmanship of its president, Counsellor Ahmad Rif'at Khafajah, the court of ethics today began objective sessions [al-jalasat al-mawdu'iyah] in the case of 'Ismat as-Sadat.

At the beginning of the session, the assistant socialist prosecutor, Counsellor Husni 'Abd al-Hamid, read the decision committing 'Ismat as-Sadat and members of his family to the court. He said that the investigations carried out on them have confirmed that they committed several crimes and actions, in seven governorates of the republic, harmful to the homeland and its economic system. They exploited their influence through their kinship with departed President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, resorted to deception in dealings with the government and public companies, tampered with the livelihood of the people and seized public funds belonging to the state.

Counsellor 'Abd al-Hamid added that 'Ismat as-Sadat and his sons exploited their influence with senior officials at the Housing Ministry and managed to procure large quantities of building materials which they sold on the black market.

Counsellor 'Abd al-Hamid further said that 'Ismat as-Sadat and his sons also exploited their influence with the officials at the telecommunications authority in the Governate of Alexandria and obtained 80 telephone lines in violation of the law. They further resorted to deception and collusion to tamper with the people's livelihood. They exploited their influence with senior officials at the Supplies Ministry and the foodstuff authority and imported 2,800 tons of meat from Spain. They brought these quantities of meat into the country knowing that they were not slaughtered according to the Islamic sharia tradition and that they were not fit for human consumption.

The assistant socialist prosecutor added that they resorted to swindling and faking to seize real estate and lands belonging to the state. They sold also large quantities of contaminated sauce, which is unfit for human consumption, causing the state a loss of 2 million pounds.

The court of ethics then began hearing the testimony of the witnesses in the case who were called by the socialist prosecutor. The court heard the testimony of Dr 'Umar Rashad Sha'lan, chairman of the board of directors of the meat and poultry company. He testified that Tal'at 'Ismat as-Sadat concluded a contract with the Supply Ministry in his capacity as proprietor of the Middle East company for trade to provide 2,500 tons of meat which he would import from Spain. This took place, the witness said, in April 1981.

The witness testified that Supply Minister Ahmad Nuh formed a special committee to go to Spain to supervize the manner of slaughter and inspect the meat to determine its fitness. Immediately after its return, the witness added, the committee wrote a report to senior officials in the Supply Ministry emphasizing that the meant was not fit for human consumption and that the animals were not slaughtered in accordance with Islamic sharia.

The witness then said he was surprised when a decision was later issued permitting the entry of this meat to the country.

The witness went on that Tal'at as-Sadat managed to obtain the approval of the quarters concerned for the entry of this meat despite the fact that it was not fit and in violation of the law.

The court then heard the testimony of Dr 'Abdallah as-Sa'dani, the deputy chairman of the supply goods organization, who said in his testimony: Tal'at 'Ismat as-Sadat often visited the offices of senior officials at the Supply Ministry. He concluded a contract with the ministry to import large quantitites of sauce. He imported the sauce, having received the cost in advance. It became obvious later that the sauce was not fit for human consumption and this caused the Supply Ministry a loss of 2 million pounds.

The court then heard the testimony of Archpriest Sidarus al-Barus, who is a monk in (Al-Baranus) convent in Wadi an-Naturn. He said: In 1974, 'Ismat as-Sadat rented a piece of land which is the property of the convent's monks from a priest who had no right to write lease contracts for the convent's property. The area of this piece of land is 6 feddans and 'Ismat as-Sadat built a cow farm on it. The witness added that 'Ismat as-Sadat acted in this way against the will of the priests in the convent and in violation of the law. He demanded that the piece of land, which is the property of the monks, be retrieved.

11 Jan Continuation

NC111925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA) -- Under the chairmanship of its president, Counsellor Dr Ahmad Rif'at Khafajah, the supreme court of ethics today resumed its consideration of the case brought up by the socialist prosecutor general against 'Ismat as-Sadat and members of his family, demanding that their funds and property, valued at 124 million pounds, be placed under custodianship for having committed actions harmful to the country's economic interests.

The socialist prosecutor demanded the continued enforcement of the decision he issued detaining 'Ismat as-Sadat and his sons Tal'at and Jalal in Turrah farm prison because of their danger to society.

At the outset of the session, Counsellor Khafajah said that the prosecutor issued a decision on 15 December committing these defendants to the court. The court later received a statement on financial debts and some documents concerning them. The court, he added, produced copies and handed them to the defense panel.

Khafajah added that the court received a letter from Industry Minister Eng Fu'ad abu Zaghalah in which he said that when he was the deputy chairman of the board of directors of the iron and steel company, Jalal as-Sadat had obtained quantities of the company's products not exceeding 0.5 percent [of the company's production] in the years 1980 and 1981.

The court president also said that he had also received a special file on contracts for telephones which 'Ismat as-Sadat and his sons had obtained. He added that the court saw the contracts relating to the telephones, which are in four governorates, with the approval of telecommunications authority officials and some governors.

The court then heard the testimony of Dr Muhammad 'Abd an-Nabi, the veterinary doctor at the Egyptian company for meats and poultry, Ibrahim Mustafa Darwish, the deputy chairman of the general organization for supply commodities, and Dr Jamal Mahjub, the chairman of the cattle plague combat [mukafahat at-Ta'un al-baytari].

The witnesses said that Tal'at 'Ismat as-Sadat imported 2,500 tons of meat from Spain which was not slaughtered according to Islamic sharia and was not fit for human consumption. They added that the Supply Ministry sent a delegation, including some veterinarians, who wrote a report immediately after their return to the Supply Ministry to confirm that the meat was not fit for human consumption. The witnesses said that despite this fact, Tal'at as-Sadat managed to bring the meat into the country and distribute it.

TARIQ 'AZIZ RETURNS HOME FROM FRANCE 11 JAN

JN111030 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, returned here at dawn today after a week-long visit to France. During the visit, the Iraqi official met French President Francois Mitterrand and several French officials and discussed means of developing and consolidating bilateral relations.

'Aziz also met with the Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi in Paris and discussed developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war. Both sides stressed the need to establish relations based on mutual respect between the Iraqi and the Iranian peoples.

'Happy' With Rajavi Meeting

PM111201 Paris LE MONDE in Fr[illegible]n 11 Jan 83 p 6

[Unattributed report: Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz Hopes That His 'Dear Friend Rajavi' Will Accede to a Top Position in Iran"]

[Excerpt] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and exiled Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi discussed the war between their two countries for more than 4 hours on Sunday, 9 January, in Auvers-sur-Oise where Mr Rajavi lives.

That meeting produced a "joint communique" according to which Mr 'Aziz expressed to his host "Iraq's sincere desire to achieve peace on the basis of full independence and territorial integrity (for the two countries), respect for the Iraqi and Iranian peoples' free will and noninterference in the internal affairs" of Iraq and Iran.

In addition Mr 'Aziz conveyed to Mr Rajavi an invitation to visit Iraq -- a proposal which, according to the Mojahedin leader "will be examined." The Iraqi deputy prime minister, for his part, said he was "happy" with the meeting.

"I wanted to meet Mr Rajavi to exchange views on the war and on our two peoples' struggle," Mr 'Aziz stated after the meeting, adding in reply to a journalists' question: "I will be happy to see my dear friend Mas'ud Rajavi as the future prime minister or president" of Iran. But, he continued, "we do not want to interfere in Iranian internal affairs."

Mr 'Aziz and Mr Rajavi were anxious to stress that Iraq is not giving any material support to the Mojahedin-e Khalq. In the interview which he granted LE MONDE on Friday (LE MONDE for 8 January), however, Mr Tariq 'Aziz hinted that Iraq is supplying material aid to the Mojahedin although he gave no details to avoid "embarrassing" them.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 962

JN111723 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Communique No 962 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 11 January 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With rare courage and high morale, our heroic armed forces are continuing their legitimate defense of the homeland and their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the regime of rancor and charlatanism in Iran.

The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. The planes of our capable Air Force continued today their effective raids against enemy positions, personnel assembly points and equipment in front of our forward units in the Maysan sector. Our planes inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, scoring effective hits. Flames and columns of smoke were seen rising from the destroyed enemy targets. Thank God, all our planes returned safely to base. There were 80 combat missions today.

2. Our forward units attacked a group of enemy personnel in front of their positions in the central sector of the front, killing eight.

3. Five were killed and one vehicle and one 106-mm gun were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

4. Two were killed in the northern sector of the front.

5. The artillery of the suspect regime of Khomeyni today shelled Basra and Mandali damaging some civilian installations there.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 January 1983

BULGARIAN PREMIER FILIPOV STARTS OFFICIAL VISIT

Report on Arrival

JN111652 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Grisha Filipov, Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Government. He was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; a number of ministers; senior officials; the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia; and the Bulgarian Ambassador in Baghdad.

The Bulgarian delegation includes Khristo Iliev Khristov, minister of foreign trade; Mariy Antonov Ivanov, first deputy minister at the Foreign Ministry; Stoyo Stanoev, secretary general of the Ministry of Communications; [words indistinct]; and a number of officials in [words indistinct].

Talks Begin

JN112007 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received this evening Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Council of Ministers in Bulgaria. Ramadan welcomed the Bulgarian leader, indicating that this visit, particularly at this time, shows the special, profound relations between Iraq and Bulgaria. Ramadan asserted that the strength of relations between the two countries is the result of the meeting which President Saddam Husayn and Bulgarian Chairman Todor Zhivkov held, in which they laid down the framework and basis of friendship and cooperation in various fields in the service of the peoples in the two friendly countries.

The first deputy prime minister expressed his satisfaction with Iraq's developing relations and large-scale and fruitful cooperation with Bulgaria, which is built on sincere desire and principled relations binding the two countries. He expressed confidence that the future of the relations between Iraq and Bulgaria will witness growth and expansion in all fields.

The Bulgarian premier conveyed greetings to President Saddam Husayn from Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, expressing pride in the friendly relations between Iraq and Bulgaria which have been developed and strengthened, particularly over the past few years. He expressed pleasure at visiting Iraq and the Bulgarian Governments and people's satisfaction at expanding relations between the two countries, particularly following the important meeting which took place between President Saddam Husayn and Chairman Todor Zhivkov. The Bulgarian premier said that Iraq-Bulgarian relations are historic and principled, not transient, expressing his deep conviction that these relations will develop much further and renewing Bulgaria's readiness to participate in implementing a number of development projects in Iraq.

The Bulgarian premier expressed his country's confidence that Iraq will continue to develop and progress because of its firm economy and strength and due to the determination of its people to advance.

The meeting, attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad, discussed means of promoting and expanding bilateral relations in various fields.

FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISES WARSAW STATEMENT

JN111125 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has described the Warsaw Pact's call for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war and for settling all disputed issues through negotiations as evidence demonstrating the serious concern of the Pact member states about events in the region.

In a statement to INA, Hammadi added that this call reflects the spirit of responsibility and desire toward establishing peace in this vital part of the world and implies the great interest the pact member states are showing in international peace and security.

Dr Hammadi expressed Iraq's extreme interest in and appreciation for the Pact's call for ending the war, adding that Iraq considers this call a serious attempt along the road to solving the issue peacefully and preserving the interests of the region's peoples and the vital interests of the world.

The Warsaw Pact issued a lengthy statement at the end of its meetings in Prague last Wednesday in which it explained the Pact's position toward the various international and Arab issues as well as the issue of disarmament.

REPORTS ON JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE

Joint Relations Discussed

JN101028 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Amman, 10 Jan (INA) -- The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee today resumed its meetings which began here yesterday. The Palestinian side to the committee is headed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and the Jordanian side is headed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. They will discuss all matters pertinent to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The committee will also discuss means to support Arab political action and enable it to attain its objective of salvaging the Palestinian land and people from the yoke of Zionist occupation.

'Arafat arrived in Amman the day before yesterday on a visit of several days to Jordan.

Joint Action Reviewed

JN102200 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee held a meeting at the Prime Ministry this evening under Prime Minister Mudar Badran and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The committee was briefed on a report submitted by the subcommittee on its work on the formulation of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations. After this, the committee discussed and exchanged viewpoints on the issue of joint action in the international arena and reviewed the Arab political moves and His Majesty King Husayn's recent talks in several capitals of the big powers, including Washington, which focused on the Middle East issue in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

The committee decided to continue its meetings in the near future.

FUTURE JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN STEPS OUTLINED

JN111256 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman Fu'ad Nu'aym -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Following the talks PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had with His Majesty King Husayn over the past 3 days, it has become clear that the future of the U.S. Middle East peace initiative greatly depends on the future of the Lebanese problem and on the outcome of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations.

In the event of a positive Israeli move toward the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon, matters might proceed according to the following (?conceptualization) which has been discussed by the Jordanian and Palestinian sides:

The PLO shall, within the framework of the Palestinian leadership, specifically the PLO Central Council and the Palestine National Council, consider the possibility of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to join peace negotiations in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and with U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative. The members of the Palestinian delegation shall [words indistinct] the PLO itself.

King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat shall hold intensive Arab contacts to crystallize this formula and obtain Arab support. King Husayn has declared that he will make an Arab tour within the next few days that will take him to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and some Gulf states.

It has been learned that Yasir 'Arafat will conduct a similar tour immediately upon his return from the Soviet Union.

Should these steps bear fruit, King Husayn would visit the United States before March during which he will declare Arab approval to join the negotiations on the basis of President Reagan's initiative. The U.S. administration shall then pledge to obligate Israel to stop the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories and the settling of Jews in the already built settlements.

King Husayn has officially affirmed that he has received a written undertaking by President Reagan dealing with the U.S. understanding of Resolution 242, which recognizes the Arab rights over the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. The Jordanian monarch also affirmed that Washington would be prepared, in the event of an Arab approval of Reagan's initiative, to study a Jordanian proposal to shorten the transitional period that would precede the self-rule of the occupied territories. As is known, President Reagan had proposed a 5-year period. It has been learned from Arab diplomatic sources in Amman that the U.S. administration had asked some friendly Arab countries to contribute toward crystallizing this Jordanian-Palestinian step.

YASIR 'ARAFAT ADDRESSES BADR FORCES

JN102113 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the unique relationship that links the sons of the two banks of Jordan is strong and eternal and stems from a sincere conviction of a common destiny and aim. He said that Palestine will continue to live in the conscience of every Jordanian as it does with every Palestinian.

In an address at the celebration given today by the Badr forces, which are part of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan, on the 18th anniversary of the birth of the Palestinian revolution, 'Arafat said that he, His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials had achieved great strides in shaping the nature of the relationship between the sons of the two banks of Jordan in order to reflect the sincerity and dimensions of the aspirations of the one people. 'Arafat affirmed that the battle of Beirut, which was fought by the Palestinian resistance forces alongside the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, was to defend the entire Arab nation as well as the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. He said that the formation of the Badr forces in Jordan in agreement with the Jordanian Government bore fruit during the siege of Beirut as these forces flocked to record the most marvelous epics in the immortal battle of Beirut.

He noted the peace plans submitted on the region's issues, explaining that a peace which is based on intrinsic strength is a strong peace with which we may grasp all our rights. He noted that the Arab nation must build up its military and political strength and use its immense economic resources to support the peace march.

Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army forces in Jordan, gave a speech in which he greeted His Majesty King Husayn and praised his support in training and arming the Badr forces and the effects of this support in establishing these forces at the outset. Col al-Khatib praised the unique Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and its effective role in regaining usurped rights.

Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Qudsiyah of the staff of the Badr forces also gave a speech in which he said that the birth of the Palestinian revolution 18 years ago was an extension of the great Arab revolution, which considered Palestine to be the heart of the Arab nation.

The celebration was attended by Occupied Land Affairs Minister Hasan Ibrahim, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, members of the Palestinian side in the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee and ranking officials in the PLO office in Amman.

AL-JUMAYYIL REPORTEDLY ACCEPTS U.S. PROPOSALS

AFP Report

NC111159 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 11 (AFP) -- Lebanon has accepted a U.S. plan to resolve an agenda dispute with Israel that has so far held up negotiations on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese territory, official sources reported here today.

They said acceptance by the government of President Amin al-Jumayyil was communicated today to the U.S. delegate to the talks, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper.

The precise nature of the plan was not immediately known, although at yesterday's round of talks at Khaldah south of here the U.S. delegation proposed that both the Israeli and Lebanese positions be included in a single document on the agenda.

For Israel, the principal aim of the negotiations is to secure the normalization of Israeli-Lebanese relations. Lebanon, however, fearing that normalization would leave it isolated in the Arab world, wants the talks to focus on the withdrawal of Israeli, Palestinian and Syrian troops.

Reports here suggested that Mr Draper might travel to Israel today in order to inform authorities there of the Lebanese response.

Radio Free Lebanon Report

NC121158 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1150 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] In Beirut Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today met with U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon at the Foreign Ministry. After the meeting Minister Salim went to B'abda Palace and briefed President al-Jumayyil on the diplomatic contacts preparatory to tomorrow's round of talks.

It is known that Lebanon yesterday approved the final text of the U.S. proposals after explaining to Draper the maximum it can accept.

AL-WAZZAN CONDUCTS TRIPOLI INSPECTION TOUR

NC120857 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, accompanied by Director General of the Internal Security Forces Hisham ash-Sha'ar, this morning left for Tripoli to acquaint himself on the spot with the security measures which have been adopted in the city to restore security and stability.

The security forces are still patrolling the city and they have refused to set up fixed roadblocks because some gunmen were still present in certain points.

Makes Statement

NC120945 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived in Tripoli at 0930 [0730 GMT] today, accompanied by Labor and Health Minister Dr 'Adnan Muruwwah, Director General of the Internal Security Forces Hisham ash-Sha'ar, Director General of Protocol and Public Relations 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykhah and chief of Civil Defense Nazih Sham'un. The prime minister was met at the Tripoli government house by Northern Governor Iskandar Ghibril, [Northern] Military Area Commander Brig Gen Nadim al-Hakim, senior officers and the public prosecutor of appeals.

Immediately upon his arrival, the prime minister chaired a meeting in the northern governor's office at the government house, attended by the governor, the delegation accompanying the prime minister and senior officials in the province to review the situation in the city and the measures agreed upon.

On his arrival at the government house in Tripoli, Prime Minister al-Wazzan stated: Tripoli is a dear as every other part of beloved Lebanon. The recent events in the city have been very painful to us. The city stood fast and endured the suffering just as the people in Beirut and before that the people in the south, Ash-Shuf and in Al-Biqa' had endured. We have all experienced the same tragedy. However, we are focusing our attention to consolidating security and stability in the north and in Tripoli which I am visiting this morning, hoping that we will be able to make the necessary contacts to establish security, particularly as we are passing through a difficult period requiring the cooperation of all the people, whether here in Tripoli or throughout Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan made a telephone contact with [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah. He will visit [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami at his residence.

TRIPOLI CHURCH ATTACKED; BISHOP WOUNDED

NC111332 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1145 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Excerpts] In Tripoli, while the internal security forces still have not yet entered the hot areas, particularly in B'al Muhsin, Bab at-Tabbanah and Al-Baqqar, because of the continued armed Palestinian, 'Alawite and alien presence, armed men this morning attacked the first floor of the Evangelical Anglican Church, where the church's library is located, and opened fire on Bishop Habib Khuri, seriously wounding him. The armed men escaped to an unknown destination. Bishop Khuri was promptly removed to An-Nili Hospital in Tripoli, where he is undergoing urgent surgery in the emergency room.

It appears that the Syrians are seeking by all means and in order to tighten their control over Tripoli to turn the sedition from a Sunnite-'Alawite conflict into a Christian-Muslim conflict. However, the awareness of the city's sons will frustrate this new plot. This was affirmed to Free Lebanon Radio by Tripoli deputy Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, who has given us a clear picture of what is happening in the capital of the north.

[Begin recording] I denounce this action, regardless of who did it. It is not possible for Tripoli, which is known for the coexistence among all of its sons with their various sects, to accept such an action. Punishment must be meted out to the one who committed this action from the sons of Tripoli before the official authority. This action means that there is some one who is stirring up sedition, and we know that the plot against Lebanon in general is very big.

In the security sphere, the situation has improved remarkably. The armed men are withdrawing and we can say that the comprehensive cease-fire has been holding for about 48 hours. It is clear that those who have carried out these incidents and the conspirators have stopped at least due to the town's unanimity to confront this plot as one rank. [end recording]

PRESS ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS, U.S. STANCE

NC110958 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] AN-NAHAR believes that the most important thing the Arabs can do toward Lebanon is to exercise further pressure on the U.S. administration and on the big powers by any means to bring about a swift Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon so that it will be possible to move to discussing Israel's withdrawal from the other Arab territories within the framework of the proposed peace plans. What the Arabs can also do is to support a plan for separating a solution of Lebanon's crisis from one for the Middle East, because the more the two crises are entangled, the more difficult it will be to solve them together.

AL-ANWAR believes that it is necessary for the U.S. side to intervene decisively in the negotiations, because failure to do so can affect the whole situation. This failure is what Lebanon is trying to avoid in order to be able to benefit from this opportunity, before developments affect the future of the existing relations.

In its editorial, the paper says: What has happened so far at the negotiations in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona urges us to reconsider the accepted factors, not just to reevaluate the negotiations, which is naturally a different thing than the accepted national factors.

AL-BAYRAQ wonders what is new in Philip Habib's mission and says: President Ronald Reagan's disagreement over the agenda of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations is not new. Likewise, an attempt to bypass the agenda is not new. The new thing is not of course the simultaneous holding of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in Lebanon and the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations in Jordan. The U.S. President, as is already known, wants a quick, positive result here, because he wants a quick result there.

AS-SAFIR calls on Washington to adopt a firmer stand to eliminate the obstacle in the way of the negotiations and the withdrawals from Lebanon. The paper says a solution in Lebanon will lead to a solution in the area within the framework of the current efforts to establish a just peace.

DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES FOR PARIS 10 JAN

JN101653 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas left Damascus for Paris this afternoon. Informed sources in Damascus said that he will meet with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu.

ECONOMIC TALKS SESSIONS BEGIN WITH IRAN

JN111649 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] The first session of commercial and economic talks between Syria and Iran was held this morning. Dr Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade, led the Syrian side while Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman, minister of commerce in the Islamic Republic of Iran, led the Iranian side. The session was attended by the two ministers' assistants and a number of corporation managers, experts and economists in the two countries.

Dr Yasin expressed the hope that the talks would be fruitful and constructive in promoting and developing the economic and commercial relations between the two countries in their common interest and for the welfare of the two peoples.

After reviewing the development of economic and commercial relations between them and their desire to promote and expand these relations, they discussed possibilities of developing them further and decided to form subcommittees to study this issue. These subcommittees have begun detailed talks.

Cooperation Committee

LD112108 Tehran IRNA in English 1936 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, Jan 11 IRNA -- Formation of a committee for cooperation between the two countries of Syria and Iran was agreed upon here today in a meeting with Iran's Commerce Minister 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman and officials of the Economic Ministry of Syria.

In this meeting, the committee thus formed will investigate present problems and ward off future problems pertaining to the economic ties between the two countries. Also expansion of present economic relations and bilateral trade were discussed upon.

'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman, heading a delegation on a two-day visit to Syria, arrived here Monday night, and was greeted by the Syrian economic minister, Salim Yasin, for talks on further strengthening of economic ties between the two countries.

AL-AHMAR MEETS WITH IRAQI COMMUNIST LEADER

JN111545 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and 'Aziz Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Iraqi Communist Party [ICP], today reviewed the events in the region and the imperialist plans which are being concocted against our Arab nation and implemented by the Zionist enemy and the agent regime of Saddam Husayn, especially the role assigned to him in his unjust war against Iran.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the development of relations between the Ba'th Party and ICP and the importance of strengthening the militant role of the progressive forces in the Arab region and of the Iraqi progressive forces to save Iraq from the tragic situation which the agent Saddam has created.

'Aziz Muhammad praised the relations between the ICP on the one hand and the Ba'th Party and Syria under the leadership of militant Comrade Hafiz al-Asad on the other. He also expressed ICP support for the Syrian stand on steadfastness and cooperation of the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary plans.

POLISH TRADE MINISTER LEAVES DAMASCUS 11 JAN

JN1111149 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Polish Foreign Trade Minister Tadeusz Nestorowicz left Damascus this morning following a 3-day visit to Syria during which he held talks on economic and trade relations between the two countries.

LEBANON AGREES TO NONBINDING AGENDA PROPOSALS

TA111529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] An official political source in Beirut said that Lebanon agrees to proposal regarding the nonbinding agenda in negotiations with Israel. Statements to this effect were given this afternoon to Ambassador Draper. Draper is supposed to come to Jerusalem this evening from Beirut to report to the Israeli Government about the Lebanese agreement. According the U.S. plan, each delegation will be able to bring up subjects for discussion without an agreed upon agenda.

U.S. MEDIATORS HABIB, DRAPER ARRIVE 11 JAN

TA111912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] U.S. mediators Philip Habib and Morris Draper came to Israel today and will meet with the prime minister in 2 days. Philip Habib brought with him a message from President Reagan for Menahem Begin. Habib will meet with U.S. diplomats in the country tomorrow.

Tomorrow the prime minister will meet with the steering committee to discuss the proposals brought up by the United States regarding the agenda for the talks with Lebanon.

U.S. PROPOSAL ON LEBANON LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED

TA120736 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel -- live or recorded]

[Text] It seems that Israel will adopt the U.S. proposal, though it may want to raise some reservations at the negotiating table. A senior political source told us that after the discussion about normalization has been assured, the disputed details are secondary and can be resolved this week or next. Nothing remains but to wait for Lebanon's approval, and the voices from Beirut indicate that such approval is indeed emerging. Regarding the areas of differences, it appears that at the last meeting the gaps were narrowed significantly on the two longstanding points of contention: the formulation of the normalization section, and that of the section dealing with the withdrawal of foreign forces. On the latter, Lebanon is requesting a detailed Israeli plan for a complete withdrawal of its forces, and it seems that Israel will comply with this.

The situation is still unclear regarding the section the Lebanese sought to have added to the agenda dealing with the guarantees for the implementation of the arrangements. The Lebanese wording is vague and Jerusalem fears that Beirut wants to bring U.S. involvement into the implementation of the agreements through the back door. And Jerusalem, it will be recalled, envisages no U.S. role in the supervision of the arrangements in Lebanon.

Tomorrow, U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib will meet Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Political sources estimate that the division of areas between envoys Habib and Morris Draper will emerge as follows: Draper will handle the negotiations on the arrangements in Lebanon about the talks in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona, while Habib, his senior, shuttles back and forth between the capitals, concentrating his efforts on the plan for the withdrawal of forces. The removal of the foreign armies is the area in which Washington would like to see quick achievements. President Reagan is seeking to accelerate efforts to solve the Lebanese problem, and Habib will apparently deliver a message to this effect to Begin when they meet tomorrow.

BEGIN TRIP TO UNITED STATES MAY BE POSTPONED

TA112107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Begin's visit to the United States will indeed be postponed if there is no progress in the talks over a settlement in Lebanon. Our correspondent learned this from Washington sources tonight. They noted that the U.S. Administration prefers to wait for the conclusions of the national commission on inquiry into the Beirut massacre, to President Navon's decision on his political future and to checks of the possibility of Jordan's joining the peace process.

RADIO LEARNS DETAILS OF HUSAYN-'ARAFAT TALKS

TA120538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has reported to King Husayn that the convening of the Palestinian National Assembly next month in Algiers is doubtful, our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned. 'Arafat explained that the leftist Palestinian organizations may boycott the discussions, thus preventing the convening of the assembly. In their talk, Husayn told 'Arafat that he has firmly decided to join the political process. The head of the PLO repeated his opposition to the participation of Palestinians from Jordan and the West Bank in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, saying that that proposal would not be accepted by his PLO colleagues and that they were already accusing him of going too far in his visits to Jordan. Husayn expressed understanding for 'Arafat's position, adding that the participation of Palestinians from the United States, Lebanon or Egypt in the delegation to the negotiations could be discussed.

SHARON ON AUTONOMY, IRAQI SETTLEMENTS, TALKS

TA110640 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] We would be prepared to discuss an arrangement with Jordan only on the basis of the autonomy, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said in an interview with our military correspondent Hayim Ravya. Palestinian figures should participate in the negotiations, but they should neither directly nor covertly belong to the PLO, he added.

Regarding the latest statements from Iraq suggesting Israel's right to security, the defense minister believes that this is part of a campaign intended to win U.S. support for Iraq in its war against Iran, and that we would be better off not getting too excited by Arab leaders statements. Here is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] Israel came up with the autonomy plan, which was accepted as an integral part of the Camp David accords. Israel is prepared to discuss things on the basis of the autonomy plan any day. We have invited Jordan to come and join the negotiations many times, and we would be happy to launch negotiations. They will be based on the autonomy plan the way it was laid down and the way it was agreed upon at Camp David. There is no room at this point to discuss other plans. This is the existing plan, and it is the only realistic plan that can be realized and can be implemented.

As for the incorporation of Palestinian personalities, we have long made it clear and it has always been indisputable to us that it is necessary to have Palestinian personalities participate in the negotiations, but it should be clear to all that they should neither be either declared nor covert PLO members, nor should they be messengers on behalf of the PLO. Rather, they should be Palestinian Arabs, residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza who want peaceful coexistence with Israel.

[Question] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has recently talked about recognition of Israel's security needs. How do you react to this declaration?

[Answer] I would not suggest that we get excited over any declaration made by Arab leaders. We know Iraq to be a country that fought against Israel even though it has no common border with Israel. Still, it has participated in all the wars against Israel. I understand that what concerns Iraq at the moment are its security needs and not Israel's. This is no doubt part of a whole campaign to win over public opinion for the purpose of obtaining U.S. support against the Iranians in their war. In my opinion, one should not take too seriously statements by Arab leaders, but at the same time strive toward such a peace that would continue to ensure, or endorse Israel's existence in safety.

[Question] Minister Sharon, following yet another day of the negotiations with Lebanon in Khaldah, can one talk about progress in these negotiations?

[Answer] I believe that the very fact that we are meeting, discussing and are getting to know each other, exchanging impressions and trying to resolve problems is in itself significant. There are difficulties in moving on from the clandestine stage of negotiations, as they were conducted for a prolonged period of time, to the open stage. Each such day marks progress, and if we show patience and not try to rush things, we will reach security and normalization as an opening for peace with Lebanon. [end recording]

Further Details

TA120810 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jan 83 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon seemed to signal a marked hardening of Israel's long-standing position on Palestinian participation in peace talks when he announced yesterday that Israel would reject any PLO participation "whether covert or overt."

Sharon's statement was issued formally by the Defence Ministry. In an additional comment to KOL YISREAEL, the minister said: "We are not prepared to talk to the PLO or people who speak for it."

In the past, Israel's stand, while wholly negative to the PLO itself, has been deliberately vague on possible Palestinian participants at a peace negotiations who might be associated with the PLO without representing it.

Sharon's statement yesterday was apparently intended to rule out such persons. He said Israel was willing to negotiate only with Palestinians of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, who seek co-existence with Israel.

Government sources refused to say whether Sharon's statement had been co-ordinated in advance with the Cabinet or with other senior ministers.

The statement was plainly timed to coincide with the much publicized current efforts by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to put together a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for negotiations with Israel.

BEN-ME'IR ON IRAQI, JORDANIAN, PLO STATEMENTS

TA110923 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jan 83 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir by Amonon Denkner: "We Need Not Do Anything" -- date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Over the last few days there have been many dovish statements from Iraq, Jordan and the PLO. Does this frighten the government?

[Answer] Nobody is frightened by this. We all want it. The question is whether Jordan and Iraq really have a desire for peace or do they want to take Judaea and Samaria from us.

[Question] Is the one thing not dependent on the other?

[Answer] No. Apart from that, I do not see any substantive sign of peace in Jordan and Iraq. There is only all sorts of talk, all sorts of statements. We are familiar with these tactics. We do not want talk from them, but only action. We have not seen any genuine move toward peace by them.

[Question] Nevertheless, over the last few days the Iraqis have spoken about Israel's right to exist and a possible recognition of Israel, words which are revolutionary coming from them. The Government of Israel reacted as follows: We are not excited. Why?

[Answer] Because that is not a revolutionary move at all. We know what is behind it. Iraq has serious problems. It wants U.S. support against Iran and so it says what it is saying. We have already heard such declarations for years.

[Question] Excuse me, not from Iraq.

[Answer] Correct. So, not from Iraq. So now it too is entering that club of those making declarations. There is no need to get excited about this or that declaration. What determines things is action. For example, we spoke of Jordan: If Husayn says that he is ready to discuss peace unconditionally, we will react.

[Question] Is this the only possibility?

[Answer] No, no. There is another possibility: that Husayn joins the autonomy talks on the basis of Camp David.

[Question] But Husayn, with the PLO and the Americans, is trying to destroy that basis.

[Answer] That is very true. Therefore I say: The fight for Camp David is at its peak and we must win it. There is a trend in the United States toward changing the basis in order to tempt somebody into negotiations. Camp David is our achievement and we paid heavily for it.

[Question] Does the rapprochement between Husayn and 'Arafat not worry you?

[Answer] It does not worry us. But, to my regret, it does show that Husayn does not want peace. If he wants peace, it is not achievable through 'Arafat, but through the Government of Israel. The fact that he is giving 'Arafat the right to veto his moves proves that he does not want peace.

[Question] You sound too reserved and suspicious about all the statements about recognition and peace coming from the east in recent days.

[Answer] I want to tell you: We must rid ourselves of an inferiority complex on the matter of peace. It is well known that our hand has been outstretched ever since the establishment of Israel. That is not the important thing. We do not need to do anything. We do not need to get excited over every statement somebody makes.

TIES WITH EGYPT AFFECTED BY LEBANON WAR

TA111417 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1233 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Ever since the Peace for Galilee Operation started, all contacts between the leaders of Egypt and Israel have been frozen, says the director of the Egypt department of the Foreign Ministry, Tzvi Qeydar. Reporting to the Knesset public audit committee, Qeydar said that Egypt still continues to implement economic sanctions toward Israel. Thus, for example, the Zim Company was not permitted to ship wool from New Zealand to Egypt. In another case, the Egyptian Suez Canal Bank refused to issue letters of credit to people wishing to trade with Israel, because of "problems" with Arab countries. He further told the committee members that since the war with Lebanon broke out, Egypt has been piling difficulties before Egyptians who wish to tour Israel, forcing each of them to obtain a special license from the security authorities, and harassing those who approach the Israeli Consulate. This report was filed by Sha'ul Stav.

ALGERIA

KHELLEF DEPARTS FOR MANAGUA NONALIGNED MEETING

LD101200 Algiers APS in English 1029 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 10/1/83 (APS) -- Trade Minister Abdelaziz Khellef, C.C. member, left Algiers yesterday to Nicaragua at the head of delegation that will represent Algeria in the Non-aligned Coordinating Bureau due to start today in Managua.

LIBYA

PALESTINIAN LEADERS ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI

LD111528 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Awal 27, Jan 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- A number of Palestinian leaders arrived here last night including Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command), Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (P.P.S.F.), 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the vanguards of the Popular War of Liberation (As-Sa'iqah), Fadl Sharur, member of the Politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Haytham, 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Politburo of the P.P.S.F.

They made statements to our correspondent stressing the escalation of armed struggle against the Zionist enemy as part of their full conviction in nationalist responsibility to liberate the Arab occupied land and halt the Zionist death wagon, which embodies Zionist domination and that of U.S. imperialism's ally, Arab reaction. They called for drawing a clear-cut programme of struggle, at Palestinian and Arab levels, to confront the current stage's dangers. This should be fully carried out through the Arab masses participation which had been absent from the struggle against the Zionist enemy and its U.S. imperialist ally.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA DISCUSSES KING'S UK VISIT WITH ENVOYS

Arab Committee

LD102112 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Prof M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, received this evening at the Foreign Ministry ambassadors of the countries which are members of the seven-member Arab committee. He discussed with them the question of the committee's coming visit to London under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II. Professor Boucetta also discussed with the Arab diplomats the arrangements for the joint meeting which the Jerusalem committee and the seven-member committee under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II will hold on 21 and 22 January. The meeting was attended by Tunisian Ambassador Slaheddine 'Abdellah, Jordanian Ambassador Muhyi ad-Din al-Husayni, Syrian Ambassador Ahmad 'Isa, Saudi Charge d'Affaires 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abdallah al-Mubarak; Muhammad Fahd Dahim, the UAE ambassador who looks after Algerian interests, and Abu Marwan [Ibrahim as-Sus] PLO representative in Rabat. On the Moroccan side the meeting was attended by (Abdelhamid al-Kattani), director of Arab Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

UK Ambassador

LD112340 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, this afternoon received at the Foreign Ministry Mr John Cambridge, British ambassador in Rabat. Talks between them centered on the forthcoming visit to the British capital by the seven-man committee led by His Majesty King Hassan II.

SOVIET ENVOY ON USSR-MOROCCAN RELATIONS

LD101756 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, 10 Jan (MAP) -- Soviet Ambassador in Rabat Yevgeniy Nersesov stressed that the Fes summit resolutions are considered an important step toward strengthening Arab unity. In a statement to the Moroccan LE MATIN DU SAHARA published today he declared that his country will always support the Arab peoples' just cause in their struggle against Zionist assaults and for the defense of freedom and independence for the sake of a just peace in the Middle East region.

Regarding the Soviet Union's position toward the Middle East situation, the Soviet ambassador said that his country supports the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Regarding Moroccan-Soviet relations, Nersesov pointed out that Soviet Union's relations with developing countries are based on equality, emphasizing that relations between the two countries are specifically concerned with commercial exchanges and that the two countries are brought together by agreements in the fields of phosphate, commercial navigation, culture, and sports. He added that the two sides are discussing the use of the capabilities of this cooperation in a comprehensive way, and that they posses other capabilities which will enable them to strengthen this cooperation to include various fields.

The Soviet ambassador said that the visit paid to Moscow by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, who represented the Moroccan monarch at Leonid Brezhnev's funeral, expressed the sentiments of friendship and respect which exist between the leaders of the two countries and between the Moroccan and Soviet peoples.

Regarding the ratification of the 10 March 1978 agreement pertaining to the exploitation of phosphate, which has been described as the agreement of the century, the Soviet ambassador explained, after reviewing the total work carried out to date, that the Soviet geological mission is supervizing the completion of excavation works in Misqala mine.

With regard to fisheries, Nersesov pointed out that more than 100 Moroccans have been sent to specialist institutions in this field in the Soviet Union between 1979 and 1982 with the aim of defining measures for better exploitation of Moroccan fish resources.

PRIME MINISTER BOUABID PLANS NEW LEFT PARTY

PM111327 Paris LE MONDE in French 9-10 Jan 83 p 3

[Roland Delcour dispatch: "Prime Minister To Form New Party"]

[Text] Rabat -- In Casablanca on Friday, 7 January, Prime Minister Maati Bouabid launched the campaign for the parliamentary elections scheduled for April or May. He caused a sensation by announcing his intention to form a party.

Although he only spoke of a "new organization encompassing the elite, cadres and especially young people," nobody in fact has any doubt that he meant a political party. To carry out this intention the prime minister is going to take up his pilgrim's staff. After Casablanca, where he addressed between 400 and 500 hand-picked cadres, he will visit Kouribgha — the phosphate city — Beni-Mellal and Marrakesh. The new party will apparently be called the socialist workers' party. If this report was confirmed, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP] led by Mr Abderrahim Bouabid (the prime minister's colleague) would see a new movement emerge in the government camp claiming to be socialist. It is true that in giving his new party that name, the government chief would merely be going back to his roots since he himself was a member of the National Union of Popular Forces [UNFP] from which the USFP emerged in 1972 after a split. The latter emerged from the Rabat group, and the Casablanca group which continued to be the UNFP was reduced to existence in virtually nothing but name.

Mr Maati Bouabid had sent the members of his Casablanca audience a letter in which he raised the question of whether the time is right to form a new political organization. "The key to the problem," he wrote, "lies essentially in more active participation by the Moroccan elite."

Mr Bouabid stated: "We are a group of Moroccans of all ages and conditions united by their common attachment to our constitutional institutions and their deep convictions that Morocco can only preserve its identity and stability through the monarchical regime." He wrote in conclusion: "Our young people need to be led, guided and directed. The family does not seem to be a suitable framework for doing that effectively. Thus there is a vacuum."

Developing these different themes in Casablanca on Friday, the government chief stated that Morocco is at a "turning-point in its history:" it is necessary to find the means of seizing this opportunity. Without ever naming Istiqlal, the nationalist party which is widely represented in his government, he nonetheless clearly asserted the need to close the chapter of the struggle for independence whose protagonists, or those who claim to be the protagonists, should no longer be the only protagonists of political life or hold most power.

To urge all the new forces to emerge from their silence a platform will be drawn up "far removed from demagoguery, imported ideologies and destructive forces" (reference to the socialists and communists).

Mr Maati Bouabid, therefore, took care not to openly attack the big existing parties which, he merely said, "we will face." But his remark was clearly directed against those parties, first Istiqlal, then the USFP and the Party of Progress and Socialism [PPS] (communist party), not forgetting Mr Ahmed Osman's National Assembly of Independence [RNI] which has already been weakened by a splinter group formed by the Independent Democrats and whose decline could be further hastened by the formation of the new party. In other words Mr Bouabid's aim is to occupy the position of a center-left party on the political chessboard, capable both of eating into the Istiqlal and the RNI's liberal wing on its right and the USFP's and PPS' supporters on the traditional left.

Finally, this is a new blow to the ambitions of Mr Ahmed Osman who makes no secret of wishing to succeed Mr Bouabid as prime minister. But the latter, who was recently thought likely to be ousted in a pre-election ministerial reshuffle, has taken his adversaries off-guard. It remains to be seen whether he will be able to reconcile his activity as founder of a new party with the job of chief of a government in which many of his future opponents are represented. In any case it is clear that any operation to launch a new party could not have been made without the palace's approval.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO SACKS 4 'PROMINENT' PARTY LEADERS

AB101833 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Four prominent party leaders, among them three parliamentarians, have been sacked from the Cameroon National Union Party, CNU. El Hadj Moussa Yaya [name indistinct], El Hadj Mimgo Aramba Singo Ibrahim, Dieudonne Ateme, and Prosper Mbassi were expulsed because of attitudes incompatible with the ideals and objectives of the national party.

Three of the dismissed party leaders are members of parliament and in conformity with Article 20 of the party constitution, they lose their seats in parliament and are, therefore, no longer parliamentarians.

The decisions were announced today at the end of a Political Bureau meeting held in Yaounde and presided over by party Chairman Ahmadou Ahidjo. (?It was also at) this meeting that Chairman Ahidjo announced his intention to tour the southern provinces in the very near future.

CHAD

HABRE SIGNS ORDINANCE ON NEW MILITARY

AB090754 Paris AFP in French 1507 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Jan (AFP) — The role and the nature of the new Chadian Army were spelled out in an ordinance issued on Friday by Hissein Habre's government at a cabinet meeting. The ranks and seniority acquired by former Chadian soldiers will continue to be respected. The former Chadian soldiers last August joined Hissene Habre's FAN in order to end former Vice President Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue's authority over the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT).

The new army, the Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT), will be composed of all the forces under the government's authority, that is, the FAN and the FAT. Its mission will be to "defend the territorial integrity, the independence and security of the country and to preserve it against any subversion or aggression," informed sources pointed out. The army will also participate in social and economic development.

The gendarmery, which used to be an important part of the Chadian Army, has been dissolved and replaced by a military police unit which will perform the same duties. According to the ordinance signed by President Habre, a 12-month term of military service has been made compulsory for all Chadians, both men and women.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU SWEARS IN NEW PARTY OFFICIALS 10 JAN

AB101205 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Excerpt] A total of 7 of the 8 members of the MPR Central Committee who were recently promoted and 16 of the 20 members of the Political Bureau this morning at the People's Palace took the oath of office before Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding president of the MPR and president of the republic.

TOGO

EYADEMA REVEALS PLAN FOR ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT

AB120912 Paris AFP in French 0857 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Lome 12, Jan (AFP) — Some mercenaries wanted to assassinate Togolese President General Gnassingbe Eyadema on the occasion of the National Day on 13 January, it was learned from official sources in Lome on Tuesday.

"This plot was to be carried out by five men of British nationality reported to be presently in Ghana, a neighboring country of Togo." Among these mercenaries was in particular a certain John Tomkins, a member of the commando unit which in 1977 planned to assassinate the Togolese president by firing on his car. General Eyadema pointed out to the AFP correspondent that "friendly powers" informed him some days ago of an imminent attempt to assassinate him.

National Day coincides with the anniversary of the coming to power of President Eyadema on 13 January 1967. He led the coup of 13 January 1963 during which President Sylvans Olympio was assassinated.

Togo, which is expected to receive French head of state Francois Mitterrand on Thursday evening for an official visit from 13 to 15 January, continues to actively prepare for his arrival.

The streets are decorated with French and Togolese flags. Pictures of the two presidents have been placed all along the route they will take and the people are busy cleaning up the town and giving it a festival atmosphere.

No particular security measures have been taken by the authorities which do not intend to change the schedule of President Mitterrand's visit to the Togolese capital.

UPPER VOLTA

THOMAS SANKARA APPOINTED NEW PRIME MINISTER

AB110703 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] We begin this newscast with an important communique issued by the People's Salvation Council [CSP]. Summoned for an extraordinary session, the general meeting of the CSP began yesterday, 10 January, at 0900 at the (Dium) Ouedraogo Military Barracks, under the chairmanship of Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, chairman of the CSP and head of state. Before examining the draft appropriation bill for 1983, which was the main item on the agenda, the general meeting discussed important issues which affect the structures of the CSP and the state. Thus, the long debates resulted in the following decisions:

1. The establishment of an office of prime minister;

2. In the proposal of the CSP chairman and head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara was elected prime minister.

The general meeting will resume today.

ANGOLA

JORNAL DE ANGOLA CITED ON MPLA PURGE

AB071659 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 7 Jan 83

[By Jean-luc Porte]

[Text] Luanda, Jan. 7 (AFP) -- Angola's official newspaper today confirmed reports that the country's ruling Popular Liberation Movement (MPLA) had purged some of its more radical members who had committed "errors." Three leading members have been imprisoned, including Costa Andrade, biographer of the late President Agostinho Neto and secretary of the Journalist's Union, Vantagem Lara, the adopted son of influential Politburo member Lucio Lara, head of the Central Committee's Organization Department, and an unnamed party official.

Some 30 other party activists, including Lucio Lara's wife Ruth, were also suspended earlier this week in a move which is seen here as evidence of a serious power struggle within the party. Well-informed sources said the purge stems from a play put on by the party's Action Committee with the approval of former Politburo member Amrosio Lukoki, who was dismissed on December 8. The play lampooned several ministers, including Health Minister Mendes de Carvalho, who has recently been reported to be on his way out. But the swift reprisals, including the surprising arrest of Costa Andrade, indicate that he is now well in the forefront. Mr Andrade, accused of lack of respect to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and factionalism, is known for his expression of radical views in the past.

For several months party militants on the Action Committee have been fighting what they have criticised as the right wing, which has a majority on the Central Committee. This group, known as the Catete or Nationalists, have now hit back. They were supported in a December 29 meeting of the Writers' Union, where those who demanded the release of Mr Andrade, including Luandino Vieira, Arthur Pestana "Pepetela" and Manuel Rui Monteiro, found themselves in a minority.

Rumours circulating in Luanda speak of other dismissals within the government.

The official newspaper JORNAL DE ANGOLA said today that the MPLA had "taken disciplinary measures to correct certain errors by members of the party who have used their right of criticism incorrectly". The paper added in an editorial that "taking as a pretext the birthday of President dos Santos (last August 28) a group of party militants ... had the audacity to offer as a birthday present a wounding caricature of the president" and proposed "the calling of a congress or the formation of a new government."

The three militants arrested after an enquiry had been put in "preventive detention", the paper said.

'Fractionist' Behavior Noted

AB111823 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Luanda, Jan. 11 (AFP) -- A group of militants of Angola's ruling MPLA party, who have been detained by the authorities, were guilty of "lack of respect" for President Eduardo dos Santos and of behaving like "fractionists", the official ANGOLA JOURNAL said today. Commenting on the four detained "enemies of the Angolan revolution", the JOURNAL said that the imprisoned "handful of militants" had acted in the same way as other splinter movements such as the "Active Revolt" group, an intellectual movement which came out against the late President Agostinho Neto in 1974, and those involved in the 1977 coup plot which had sought an all-black leadership.

In its editorial the JOURNAL said that the death of Mr Neto in 1979 has encouraged "the internal reaction, which had always backed opponents of the Angolan revolution, waiting for an appropriate moment for an assault on the party leadership."

Observers here noted that in the past charges of "fractionism" have brought heavy penalties for those involved.

The newspaper accused the Western press of coming out behind the imprisoned militants and "stepping up attempts to discredit the revolutionary avant garde." Its correspondents were "linked to the internal reaction," it said. The term "internal reaction" might have been used to describe a political group, of which the four people in detention and 30 others suspended from the party might represent only a small part. The detained four, who are being held at the maximum security prison here, are Vantagem Lara, the adopted son of ranking party official Lucio Lara, Costa Andrade, who wrote President Neto's biography, and party officials Simao Paulo and Raul Araujo.

LESOTHO

SPOKESMAN ON REPORTED ANTI-SOUTH AFRICA SUMMIT

MB111000 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] A Lesotho Government spokesmen has dismissed as errant nonsense a statement in the SUNDAY TIMES of 9 January that Lesotho is to host an anti-Soviet Africa summit at the end of this month. The spokesman observed that this ridiculous statement was not backed by any facts whatsoever and was, therefore, to be seen as a statement calculated to give white South Africans an impression that whatever Lesotho does within her borders should be seen as a hostile act against South Africa.

The spokesman said that Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] had been held in member nations, not only Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana, but in Malawi as well, and that South Africa has never complained that such meetings were hostile. The spokesman said that the nine-member SADCC is made up of politically independent nations for the good of southern Africa and that Lesotho as a member of SADCC will not be cowed into submitting to the whims of South Africa, who would much prefer to see her as a Bantustan and not an independent country.

It is to be regretted that the SUNDAY TIMES seems to have joined the campaign to create the false impression in the minds of South Africans that every time Lesotho acts it acts against South Africa. In any case, there was not a single fact in the article to substantiate that anything anti-South Africa would be done at the conference.

MOZAMBIQUE

REBELS WARNING ON ZIMBABWE TROOPS REPORTED

MB120849 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Mozambique's resistance movement has threatened to attack Zimbabwe unless Zimbabwean troops are withdrawn from Mozambique. The warnings come from spokesperson for the rebels Evo Fernandes. It follows the recent clash between Zimbabwe troops and the rebels in Mozambique. Fernandes says over 6,000 Zimbabwe troops are in Mozambique guarding the railway line between the two countries. Fernandes has warned his movement will continue to attack the vital pipeline. He said if Zimbabwe troops are not withdrawn, then his forces would cross the border if necessary. The Mozambique resistance movement is said to be backed by South Africa, although South Africa denies this.

NAMIBIA

HOUGH TO TAKE OVER MUDGE'S CHAIRMAN DUTIES

MB111756 Johannesburg International Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] In South-West Africa the chief director in the Office of the Administrator-General Mr (Veal), has said that the resignation of the chairman of the council of minister, Mr Mudge, will mean that the duties of the council will be taken over by the administrator-general because of the dissolution of the council.

It was earlier announced that Mr Mudge intended resigning on 18 January.

Mr (Veal) said it was possible that advisers would be appointed to assist the administrator-general. The civil service would continue its functions normally. He said the intended resignation indicated a further split between the democratic Trunhalle Alliance and the South African Government. Mr (Veal) said it was too early to tell what degree the events would influence the South African Government in its decisions on the constitutional future of South-West Africa after the expiry of the term of office of the National Assembly on 28 February.

The Secretariat of the National Assembly has in the meantime explained what the legal position will be when Mr Mudge resigns. The terms of Proclamation AG 19 of 1980 the president of the assembly has to convene the assembly as soon as possible to appoint a new chairman for the Council of Ministers. [sentence as heard] It is then the duty of the new chairman to submit names of members for Council of Ministers to the assembly, for election.

ZIMBABWE

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF PRC'S ZHAO ZIYANG

Harare on Arrival

MB090924 Harare Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister of the People's Republic of China, PRC, Comrade Zhao Ziyang, arrived in the city from Zambia this morning. Thousands of Zimbabweans, the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, government ministers and members of the diplomatic corps were at the airport to welcome the Chinese leader who is on a 4-day official visit to Zimbabwe. In a press release issued at the airport Comrade Zhao said mutual efforts, understanding, friendship, solidarity and cooperation will grow stronger between the two countries.

AFP on Activities

AB091110 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 9 Jan 83

[By Jean-Michel Stoullig]

[Text] Harare, Jan 9 (AFP) -- At least two people were crushed to death and many more injured in a crowd stampede when Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang arrived here today to a welcome by thousands of Zimbabweans. Eyewitnesses said the death toll could be much higher from the incident, which occurred when a gate on to the airport tarmac area was opened shortly before the Chinese delegations arrival from Lusaka, Zambia. Mr Zhao, on the ninth leg of an eleven-nation African tour, is to spend three days in Zimbabwe.

Despite the acute fuel shortage in the country the government had urged people to come to the airport and dozens of buses were laid on. For the last few days radio and television had recalled China's long standing military support for the now ruling ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe in the fight for independence.

In a speech at the airport Mr Zhao referred to the "profound militant friendship" between the two countries "because," he said, "in their protracted common struggle the Chinese and Zimbabwean peoples supported each other and worked in close cooperation."

During the war against the white minority government of what was then Rhodesia China provided the AANU guerrilla fighters with arms and military training, while the Soviet Union gave its full backing to Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union), whose influence has considerably decreased in recent months. But while the political links between Harare and Beijing are very good, if only because of the old fraternity of arms, the Chinese visit is not expected to bring many concrete results. According to officials from both countries, no final communique and no press conference are expected at the end of the visit on Tuesday, when Mr Zhao flies to Tanzania. Analysts said the visit to Zimbabwe should have less political weight than the one to Zambia, which has closer aid links with Beijing.

In Lusaka Mr Zhao accused South Africa of large scale aggression against its black neighbours and blamed Western nations for "supporting Pretoria." He also asserted unprecedented Chinese support for the banned African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and Namibia's SWAPO (South-West African People's Organization).

Mr Zhao, who paid a courtesy call on President Caanan Banana shortly after his arrival, was holding private talks with Mr Mugabe later today. He was to be the guest at an official banquet in the evening.

The only round of official talks between the two delegations will be held tomorrow morning. The Chinese delegation includes State Councillor Gu Mu and Foreign Affairs Minister Wu Xueqian.

In his airport statement the Chinese prime minister said he was "convinced that the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries would develop further."

At present China's main project in Zimbabwe is the design and construction of a 60,000-seat sports stadium in the capital. In 1980 Beijing provided a 23.8 million dollar loan for the construction of the stadium.

According to Chinese sources the two governments are discussing Chinese aid for the production of rice, which is chronically short in Zimbabwe, and the sending of Chinese medical teams to Zimbabwe, especially to rural areas.

Report on Banquet

CA101012 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has described as pure hypocrisy criticisms leveled against his government by (?several) Western powers (?concerning) violations (?of human rights). In an apparent reference to Washington and London at a reception held in honor of the visiting Chinese prime minister, Comrade Zhao Ziyang, Comrade Mugabe said those Western powers should most vigorously condemn the Pretoria regime for its violation and destabilization of its neighbors. Comrade Mugabe said [words indistinct] unfounded allegations about human rights violations in Zimbabwe while turning a blind eye to South Africa's repressive rule over its people with whom [words indistinct]. However, Comrade Mugabe expressed confidence that the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia would [words indistinct] until democratic social orders had been established in both countries.

On relations between China and Zimbabwe, Comrade Mugabe thanked the Chinese people for being the biggest contributor during Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. He expressed great admiration for China's successful building of a socialist society as [words indistinct]. Comrade Mugabe told the visiting Chinese prime minister that Zimbabwe and China should (?work hard) [words indistinct] an international economic order so that the developing countries can benefit from it. He said fundamental changes should be reflected in the international economic system which [words indistinct] the interests of capitalist industrialized countries.

In a speech at the reception, the Chinese prime minister praised Zimbabweans for their hard work, courage and self-reliance in the national reconstruction program. Comrade Zhao also commended the Zimbabwean Government for its adherence to the policy of national reconciliation and unity which has brought stability to the country.

On the position of China with regard to international relations, Comrade Zhao said Beijing pursued a policy of supporting a just struggle of all peoples of the (?world). He said all nations should be linked to each other on the basis of equality, mutual cooperation, [word indistinct]. He said China will continue to sponsor unity and cooperation with developing nations.

Today, the Chinese prime minister holds talks with government ministers. He leaves for Tanzania tomorrow.

Mugabe On South African Incursion

CA101016 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Excerpt] In Harare, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said last night that Zimbabwe had recently repelled two incursions by racist South Africa. He said at a banquet for Chinese Premier Comrade Zhao Ziyang, that his troops had recently repelled South Africa in two incidents of naked aggression as his forces crushed (?and annihilated the) [words indistinct]. Mr Mugabe gave no details. Last year he told a news conference that a Zimbabwean Army unit had killed three white South African invaders some 40 km inside the eastern border. Their bodies were later displayed in Harare. Pretoria said later it had ordered an inquiry into what it called an unauthorized (?invasion) into Zimbabwe by ED-Rhodesian members of the South African Army.